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Letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in its capacity as the Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, I have the honour to convey to you the Yekaterinburg Declaration of the Heads of member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, adopted at its Heads of States Council meeting, held on 15 and 16 June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda item 114.

(*Signed*) Murad **Askarov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Yekaterinburg Declaration of the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), pursuant to the meeting of the Council of Heads of State held on 15 and 16 June 2009, hereby declare the following:

1. Significant changes are taking place in today's international environment. Aspirations for peace and sustainable development and the promotion of equitable cooperation are the order of the day. The shift towards true multipolarity is irreversible. Greater emphasis is being given to the regional aspect when addressing global challenges.

SCO member States, reaffirming their commitment to co-development based on the principles and provisions of the charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Treaty for Long-term Good-Neighbourly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation of the States members of SCO, are giving high priority to maintaining constructive dialogue and enhancing close interaction and partnership in the joint efforts to seek effective ways of addressing global and regional challenges, making use of the growing potential and international recognition of SCO.

2. SCO member States consider international cooperation to be an essential instrument for addressing new challenges and threats, overcoming the global financial crisis, achieving energy and food security and resolving the urgent issue of climate change.

3. The global economic and financial situation highlights the need to strengthen the international community's cooperation in the area of control and governance of international finances, joint efforts to prevent the increase and risk contagion of the financial crisis and preserving economic stability.

The States members of the organization intend to make efforts, together with the global community to establish an international financial order that is more just, equitable, comprehensive and structured, taking into account the true balance of interests of all of its participants and offers all States equal access to the advantages of globalization.

In that regard, cooperation and information sharing should be strengthened as regards the international financial sector and efforts to address the consequences of the global financial crisis in the SCO region.

4. SCO member States emphasize the growing importance under the present circumstances of increasing economic, trade and investment cooperation in the context of the organization, including making use of the capacity of observer States and dialogue partners.

They noted the need to speed up the implementation of major projects that would expand the region's transport and communication capacities and offer access to world markets, develop social infrastructure, establish modern international centres for logistics, trade and tourism, build new enterprises and introduce innovative and energy-saving technologies, including those based on renewable energy sources.

The implementation of these projects, the establishment of international transport corridors, modernization of railways and highways will provide the prerequisites for strengthening the region's capacity as a transcontinental bridge and give new impetus to the development of economic links between Europe and Asia.

5. SCO member States, noting the crucial significance of the energy sector for successful economic development and creating an enabling environment for enhancing the quality of life of the citizens of their countries, express their determination to continue to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in this area on an equitable basis in order to ensure an effective, reliable, and environmentally sound energy supply.

6. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization believes there is a need for further strengthening of the legal basis of international relations, which is determined by generally accepted principles and norms of international law and international obligations of States.

Strengthening the central and coordinating role of the United Nations in world affairs and enhancing the effectiveness of its mechanisms with the aim of providing an adequate response to today's challenges and changing political and economic circumstances remains an urgent task. The reform of the United Nations Security Council should take place with as broad a consensus as possible among members of the international community.

SCO member States intend to strengthen coordination on issues relating to reform of the United Nations and its Security Council.

7. SCO member States emphasize the importance of ensuring international information security as a key element of the overall system of international security.

8. The States members of SCO, emphasizing their commitment to the dialogue of civilizations and the values of peace, tolerance, mutual respect and harmony in inter-ethnic and interfaith relations irrespective of ethnicity and religious or other views, have argued that the efforts to counter international terrorism should not be misconstrued as opposition to any religion.

9. Support for international peace is only possible in the conditions of equal security for all States without exception. The security of some States should not be achieved at the expense of the security of others.

International and regional conflicts should be settled by political and diplomatic measures on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

Attempts to achieve unilateral advantages in defence matters are counterproductive, undermine the global strategic balance and stability, and do not support confidence-building, weapons reduction and disarmament.

10. SCO member States note that the proliferation of nuclear weapons is a serious threat to international peace and security.

The Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the basis for the international system for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Threats of proliferation of nuclear weapons can and should be addressed on the basis of the NPT with all parties to the Treaty complying unconditionally with their obligations. SCO member States confirm their strong support for the NPT, welcome the multilateral efforts to strengthen it, and are determined to move towards enhancing the effectiveness of the Treaty on the basis of the unity of its three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

SCO member States reiterate their intention to contribute to further implementation of the global initiative of the Russian Federation and the United States to counter acts of nuclear terrorism and also welcome the entry into force on 21 March 2009 of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

11. SCO member States welcome the opening of negotiations between the Russian Federation and the United States for drafting a treaty to reduce strategic offensive arms.

12. SCO member States express support for resuming the negotiation process for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. They call for restraint to be exercised and for continued efforts to seek mutually acceptable solutions on the basis of prior agreements.

13. SCO member States express serious concern at the challenging situation in Afghanistan, with the general threats to the international community posed by the illegal narcotics trade, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

In this connection, they recognize the need to enhance cooperation with observer States of the SCO, Afghanistan and other interested countries, and also regional and international organizations, in particular with the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

SCO member States intend to set up drug control and financial security belts in the region in close cooperation with other interested countries and international organizations.

14. SCO member States welcome the cessation of the internal armed conflict in Sri Lanka and express their hope for the establishment of lasting peace, strengthening of security and stability in the country on the basis of State sovereignty, territorial integrity and a guarantee of human rights for all ethnic and religious groups.

15. One priority area for SCO member States is enhancing the effectiveness of interaction to ensure a timely joint response to natural and man-made emergencies and the implementation of a set of measures to reduce their social and economic impact.

16. SCO member States attach great importance to strengthening cooperation for addressing the threat of dangerous infections and other infectious diseases. In that regard they acknowledge the need to make use of existing resources and to work together to prevent the spread of epidemics.

17. SCO member States declare that the organization has become an important element of the emerging security and cooperation system in the Asian-Pacific region.

Noting with satisfaction the growing interest of the international community in establishing links with SCO, they welcome the fact that the Republic of Belarus and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka have embarked on cooperation in the context of SCO as dialogue partners.

SCO member States express their readiness to expand practical interaction with the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific and other international and regional organizations and to form an extensive partnership network on that basis.

SCO member States are open to dialogue that supports the rapprochement of States, the building of a more equitable world order, and the strengthening of global stability and economic development.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

President of the People's Republic of China

President of the Kyrgyz Republic

President of the Russian Federation

President of the Republic of Tajikistan

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan